

*Washington, DC* - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced an \$84,788 federal grant for the Village of Deposit Fire Department. The funds will help the department purchase 17 self-contained breathing apparatus units. The grant is provided through the Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program (AFG) and is administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"Firefighters who serve the Village of Deposit put their lives on the line to save the lives of others," Hinchey said. "They deserve to have the very best equipment to protect themselves when called into harm's way. These new air packs will help ensure their safety when smoke and hazardous toxins fill the air."

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey has worked to secure full funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, since its inception in 2001. More than \$18.5 million in grants have been awarded to fire and emergency departments in Hinchey's congressional district.

"The grant also prevents the need for local taxpayers to shoulder the expense of this equipment through property taxes," Hinchey added. "I will continue doing everything I can to ensure that fire departments in New York and throughout the country have access to the equipment they need."

Hinchey is also the author of the SERVE (Supporting Emergency Responders' Volunteer Efforts) Act, which would provide a \$1,000 federal tax credit to individuals who are active members of volunteer firefighting and EMS organizations. The congressman has sponsored a number of workshops across his congressional district in the past to help fire departments successfully navigate the grant application process. For the most current information regarding the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program, please visit [www.firegrantsupport.com](http://www.firegrantsupport.com).